



Wildlife Wednesdays

2014-2015 Free Lecture Series At The Alaska Zoo



October 8

Community-based Conservation: 25 Years of Bird Banding on the Yukon Delta

U.S. Geological Survey Alaska Science Center Research Wildlife Biologist Craig Ely will discuss his innovative partnership with local Cup'ik youth and Elders from the Native Village of Chevak and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to help conserve important populations of migratory waterfowl that rely on remote wetlands of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta of western Alaska.

February 11

Discovering Bats: Unraveling the Secrets of One of Alaska's Least-Known Mammals

The ecology of bats in Alaska is a mystery but biologists are beginning to shed light on the behaviors of this unique flying mammal. Join Marian Snively, Wildlife Diversity Program biologist at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, to learn how new research and acoustic monitoring, combined with a decade of Citizen Science participation, are filling information gaps on bat distributions, roosting, migration and hibernation activities.

November 12

Bear Research at the Alaska Zoo: Brown Bear Diet- from the Zoo to the Wild

By controlling the diet of brown bears at the Alaska Zoo, researchers are hoping to better understand how different foods are incorporated in the tissues of a bear, and how roads or other human developments might affect how bears forage for food. Matt Rogers, with UAA, discusses a collaborative research project with the Alaska Zoo that combines field studies, controlled feeding and ecological modeling to better understand the foraging ecology of Alaskan brown bears through stable isotope analysis.

March 11

Tundra to Tropics: Travels of the Bristle-Thighed Curlew

Learn about Alaska's rare shorebird and its connection to national wildlife refuges in Hawaii and the Pacific. Kristine Sowl, a wildlife biologist with the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, takes you on a journey to its remote western Alaska breeding grounds and winter home on the islands and atolls of the Pacific.

December 10

McNeil Diaries: Photographing and Observing Individual Brown Bears

Drew Hamilton, a field technician with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, discusses insights about brown bear behavior and shares photography from his seasonal work guiding bear-viewing at the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary.

April 8

Running the Gauntlet: Killer Whale Predation on Gray Whales in the Unimak Island Region

Most of the Eastern North Pacific gray whale population migrates through Unimak Pass, Alaska. Over 100 killer whales also arrive to intercept them with effects that ripple through the near-shore and terrestrial ecosystem. Craig Matkin, Executive Director for the North Gulf Oceanic Society, will discuss this interaction and how it affects the marine ecosystem.

January 14

Loons: Lords of Arctic Lakes

Though rare compared to most waterbirds in Alaska, loons are aggressive rulers of tundra lakes, sometimes battling to the death. Joel Schmutz, with the U.S. Geological Survey's Alaska Science Center, shares research about the three Arctic species of loons in Alaska and how they differ in size, feeding strategy, abundance, and vulnerability to conservation threats.

Photos by USGS (Loon), ADFG (Brown Bear & Brown Bat) and USFWS (Bristle-Thighed Curlew)



The Alaska Zoo 4731 O'Malley Road Anchorage, AK 99507 (907)341-6463

All lectures will be from 7-8pm in the Alaska Zoo Gateway Hall